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ART BOOK REVIEWS

THE BOOK OF THE PEARL (The Century Co.). The History, Art, Science and Industry of the Queen of Gems. By George Frederick Kunz, A.M., Ph.D., and Charles Hugh Stevenson, LL.M., D.C.L. Illustrated. Price, \$12.00 net.

This elaborate work covers the history of the pearl from its earliest discovery, presumably by prehistoric man, throughout the ages down to our own time.

The authors, who are well qualified for the work, exhaust the subject in every detail, and teach while they entertain and amuse. Pearls are described as objects of art and ornamentation, and the development in and changes of fashions regarding them are related. Their artistic and commercial values and how they are determined is told, as also how to enhance and preserve their lustre.

The book is beautifully illustrated with one hundred full-page plates, three photogravures, seventeen pages in full color and eighty in tint and half-tone.

Portraits of famous women who possess superb ornaments are given. They include queens, duchesses, empresses, opera singers and noted Americans.

There are chapters on the origin of pearls, their structure and forms, European and American pearls and pearls from Asia.

Pliny's famous story of Cleopatra's dissolving a pearl in vinegar and drinking to the health of Antony is demolished by the authors, who say that it is as difficult to dissolve a pearl in vinegar as a pearl button—as the composition is similar. "To dissolve a pearl in vinegar it must be pulverized and might be thus drunk as a love potion, although it would scarcely be a *bonne bouche*."

Many amusing stories are told of the beliefs regarding the pearl, which the authors have traced to the literature of China. In this literature stories are told of pearls so brilliant as to be visible at a distance of nearly a thousand yards; of rice cooked by their light, and of one found near Yangchow-fu at the beginning of the Christian era so lustrous as to be visible at a distance of three miles.

Dr. Kunz is associated with Tiffany & Co. as a gem expert and was the gem authority of the Century Dictionary. He is an international authority on all pearl questions, and knows more about pearls than any man living.

Dr. Stevenson is acknowledged as a statistician of wide authority. He has been connected with the U. S. Fish Commission since 1891, and has represented it in many investigations.

The Book of the Pearl is for those who own and for those who love pearls. Moreover, it is a volume of romance and of beauty—and should be in all libraries, both public and private.

"THE PATH TO PARIS," by Frank Rutter, with illustrations by Henslip Fletcher. (John Lane Co., New York.)

This book gives delightful pictures of the water and land highways and by-ways of France that lead to Paris from Havre. Mr. Rutter, who is the London correspondent of the ART NEWS, carries the reader from place to place in an entertaining way, lingering in and describing every point of interest. He begins his journey at the quay at Havre and, trav-

eling along the Seine, through picturesque Lanearville, Caudebec, Rouen, Les Andelys, Giverny, St. Germain, through other hamlets "famed in the annals of art or war" and at last reaching the capital. With him the reader visits the art galleries, ruins, castles and churches and are instructed, entertained and, at times, amused.

The book is beautifully illustrated with sketches made at each point, accurate as well as artistic.

"Infinite riches in a little room" is a phrase which may well be applied to the compact and dainty little pocket volumes of the Great Galleries of Europe Series, now publishing by H. M. Caldwell Company, Boston. Already we have "The National Gallery," "The Tate Gallery," "The Louvre," and "The Luxembourg." This fall they present "THE GLASGOW GALLERY," and several others are well on the way. Scottish artists and their work have been coming to the fore very strongly in late years and this is one of the most interesting of the Series on that account. There are sixty or more examples of their work with concise notes on the pictures and the artists and an historical account of the Gallery represented.

ARTISTIC BOOK NEWS.

Students in modeling will be interested to know of the fine collection of photographic reproductions of the complete works of the late Augustus Saint-Gaudens, published in book form by the John Lane Co. Mr. C. Lewis Hind has written an accompanying appreciation of the work of this, our greatest American sculptor. Any one with ambitions in the line of sculpture could not do better than to keep before him for constant study such noble examples of the art.

A volume of reminiscences by an American artist about American artists, the first of its kind, so it is claimed, which has ever been published, is issued by Chas. Scribner's Sons under the title "A Chronicle of Friendships," by Will H. Low. The book is made up of reminiscences of the life of the art students in Paris and Barbizon, forty or more years ago, and tells especially of the friendship of three men, Robert Louis Stevenson, R. A. M. Stevenson, and the author, Mr. Low. Other people appearing in the book are Jean Francois Millet and Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

Duffield & Co. have published "Artists of the Italian Renaissance." The book is made up of stories of the Italian artists as set forth by Vasari, Ridolfi, Lanzi, and the chroniclers. They are collected and arranged by E. L. Seeley. The book is beautifully illustrated in half-tones and colors.

A book entitled "How to Appreciate Prints," by Frank Weitenkamp, curator of the print department of the New York Public Library, is published by Moffat, Yard & Co. This book aims to give an exhaustive study of its subject.

For the frequenter of exhibitions, the art student, the general reader and the private library, there is no such convenient and reliable source of information concerning the lives and works of great painters and the growth and development of great schools of art as "The Popular Library of Art," published by E. P. Dutton & Co.

ART IN THE MAGAZINES

Gari Melcher's well-known painting of Dutch peasants, "The Skaters," forms the frontispiece of the Christmas CENTURY Magazine. It is admirably reproduced in colors and approximates the tonal feeling of the original. Hugo Ballin's "The Bath" is another American picture that has been reproduced more or less successfully in color, as well as Frank Vincent Du Mond's "The Holy Family," showing the Christ lad and his parents at table. In all an excellent issue this month.

"A Day in the Metropolitan Museum with Sir Caspar Purdon Clarke" is the first of a series of important articles, which will be accompanied by reproductions of the most representative collection of masterpieces in the pages of the WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION. The greatest works of the old masters will be presented in the order in which they are described by the leading art authorities in the world.

The Companion has commissioned the distinguished American artist, Balfour Ker, to paint for "Lincoln Year" a new portrait of the martyred President at the age of fifteen.

Arthur I. Keller is surely a capably endowed illustrator; he invariably manages to get a wholesome, artistic, sane result, arriving directly at the point, telling his story intelligently and with rare charm. A full-page in last week's COLLIER'S, the Thanksgiving number, shows a young woman on her father's arm, bound churchward. The caption is "Let Us Come Before His Presence with Thanksgiving." Arthur Covey has some admirable drawings in color to illustrate a story by Gouverneur Morris, and the cover, representing one of the ancient monks of the middle ages illuminating, is by Leon Guipon. This is cleverly drawn and colored.

The Christmas number of SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE displays great wealth and variety of illustration, containing many of the original studies and sketches by Edwin A. Abbey, R. A., for his wonderful series of pictures at the Harrisburg Capitol. An article by Royal Cortissoz gives a most appreciative account of this distinguished series of decorations as they appear in place in the Capitol.

Important Books for Art Lovers

Gifts for Every Taste and Every Purse

THE BOOK OF THE PEARL

(Just Issued)

By Dr. George Frederick Kunz and Dr. Charles Hugh Stevenson, both notable authorities.

One hundred full-page plates—three photogravures, seventeen pages in full color, and eighty in tint and in black—all showing some rich or unusual phase of pearl life or romance. Royal quarto, cover in blue and three shades of gold. 600 pages. \$12.50 net; by express, paid, \$12.90.

"The Book of the Pearl" is for those who own pearls, and for those who love pearls, and for those who want to know anything there is to know about pearls. It is a complete and absolutely authoritative cyclopedia, a volume of romance and of rare and sumptuous beauty.

As an exquisite gift book, it seems as if the art of the book-maker could go no further. With its rich cover, its magnificent illustrations, its heavy, broad-margined pages, "The Book of the Pearl" is a mine of delight to every lover of beautiful books.

EGYPT AND ITS MONUMENTS

(Just Issued)

The text by Robert Hichens, author of "The Garden of Allah," illustrations in full color from paintings by Jules Guérin, and photographs.

Royal octavo, 251 pages, beautifully bound, beautifully printed. Price, \$6.00 net; postage, 38 cents.

Nowhere in literature is there to be read a more exquisite and sympathetic description of the wonders to be seen upon the Nile journey than in this book. Mr. Guérin's pictures, in full color, convey as nothing else yet has, the immensity and the color impressions of these wonders of the past.

WITH WHISTLER IN VENICE

(Just Issued)

By Otto H. Bacher.

Reproductions of twenty-six Whistler etchings, many of them from states of the plates never heretofore reproduced; three Whistler lithographs, and five Whistler letters, also thirteen etchings and photographs by Mr. Bacher. Quarto, 289 pages. Boxed, price, \$4.00 net; postage, 35 cents.

How Whistler worked in Venice—and he worked early and late—how he played; his achievements in pastels and oils and lithographs, something of the Society of Painter-Etchers, the relation of Whistler and Hamerton, the early states of some Venetian etchings, and scores of anecdotes of the artist and his life in Venice, go to make up this delightful new contribution to Whistleriana, every page of which breathes a sympathetic understanding of and warm feeling for Whistler, most fascinating and whimsical of geniuses.

ITALIAN VILLAS AND THEIR GARDENS

Text by Edith Wharton, in two colors on special plate paper.

Fifty illustrations, in four colors and in black, by Maxfield Parrish and from photographs. \$6.00 net; postage, 27 cents.

All travelers to and sojourners in Italy, all ambitious American gardeners, all lovers of a really beautiful book will want this volume.

THE CHATEAUX OF TOURAINE

Text by Maria Horner Lansdale, in two colors on special plate paper.

Sixty illustrations in color by Jules Guérin, and from photographs in tint and black. Sumptuously bound in colors and gold. \$6.00 net; postage, 27 cents.

An accurate and authentic work, and one of vivid interest, with pictures and text of equal delight.

THE ART CRAFTS FOR BEGINNERS

By Frank G. Sanford.

Many helpful illustrations by the author. \$1.20 net; postage, 9 cents.

The instructions, beginning with the simplest work, is arranged in progressive lessons of increasing difficulty, so that their mastery means adeptship in craft work.

We have just issued a very handsome pamphlet entitled "Books to Buy," is illustrated with charming marginal drawings by Mr. John Wolcott Adams on every page, the cover an exquisite drawing in color of an old chap-book seller. May we send you a copy? It contains our classified list of children's books (by ages and whether for boys or girls)—invaluable at Christmas.

HOW TO STUDY PICTURES

By Charles H. Caffin.

Fifty-six illustrations from well known paintings, with complete index and glossary of terms. \$2.00 net; postage, 19 cents.

Because nowhere else has the gist of art-study been presented in a form so interesting, comprehensive, and suggestive as in this admirable book; it is indispensable for art lovers, students and travelers.

JOAN OF ARC

Text by Boutet de Monvel.

Forty-three characteristic illustrations by the author-artist, exquisitely printed in color by Bausson, Valadon & Co., of Paris. Bound in lavender cloth, with decorations in green and gold. \$3.00 net; postage, 17 cents.

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